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(*d*) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to take measures in that direction ;

(*e*) whether there has been a report on this subject from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation ; and

(*f*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay the same on the table of this House ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Memorandum No. 16082-D/26-13, dated 6th January 1928, which has been placed on the Council table.

(*c*) & (*d*) It is premature to consider the question of water-rate till the results of the investigation on the engineering side which has been ordered are known.

(*e*) & (*f*) The answer to clause (*e*) is in the negative.

Mr. C. Obi Reddi :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), may I know whether any report has been called for from the Irrigation Chief Engineer ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" A staff has been appointed to investigate into the matter and they will submit a report."

Irrigation of lands in Coimbatore district from the water in the Mettur Reservoir.

* 1465 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any report has been received from the Chief Engineer at Mettur about the irrigation of some lands in the Coimbatore district to the west of the Cauvery from the water in the Mettur Reservoir and if so, to what effect ;

(*b*) whether the Government have come to any decision on the matter referred to in (*a*) and if so, to what effect ;

(*c*) whether the Government have passed any order asking the Chief Engineer at Mettur to make further investigation regarding the irrigation of some lands in the Salem district with water from the Mettur Reservoir ;

(*d*) whether the above order has been passed on any report from the Chief Engineer ; and

(*e*) if so, whether the Chief Engineer's report will be placed on the table of the House ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The only report on the subject is the one by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation), published with G.O. No. 1974 I., dated 16th December 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) In paragraph 2 (i) of G.O. No. 2616 I., dated 19th October 1928, which was supplied to all M.L.C's., the Engineer-in-Chief, Cauvery-Mettur Project, was asked to report on the question of extension of irrigation in the Salem district from the Mettur reservoir. He reported that this investigation could not be undertaken by the project staff. The Government, therefore, sanctioned a special division for the purpose in G.O. No. 1 I., dated 2nd January 1929, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. This division will work under the Chief Engineer (Irrigation).

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I am astonished, Sir, that in spite of the unusual care bestowed on questions by the hon. Member, there is no answer to clause (b). May I ask the hon. Minister to give the answer at least now ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Pending the investigation of this matter, Government cannot come to any decision."

Landlord and Tenant

Disposal of suits by Mr. V. Achyutam Pantulu, Revenue Divisional Officer, Chatrapur.

* 1466 Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of suits and petitions disposed of by Mr. V. Achyutam Pantulu, Revenue Divisional Officer, Chatrapur, from the date of his taking charge of the office up to 15th October 1928 ;

(b) the number of suits declared ex parte ;

(c) the number of petitions and suits disposed of by giving notice to the parties on the notice board ; and

(d) whether any complaint has been made that the said Divisional Officer is abusing and insulting parties and also pleaders ?

A.—(a) The number of suits and petitions referred to in the question are noted below :—

Suits	434
Miscellaneous applications	221
Execution petitions	439
Total ...	1,094

(b) 265.

(c) No suits or applications were disposed of by giving notice of the date of hearing to the parties on the notice board. In the case of eight execution petitions, notice was given in April 1928 in the manner indicated to the decree-holders to file fees for attachment warrants and sale applications ; but they were not disposed of for default of filing of these fees.

(d) A complaint was received by the Collector from the Bar Association. The allegations made therein were categorically denied by the Deputy Collector and he was corroborated by the statements of two pleaders who were present in court on the occasions referred to.

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" May I know, Sir, that the fact that there are so many ex parte cases—as many as 265—is due to the fact that Mr. V. Achyutam Pantulu posts cases in distant places, highly inconvenient to parties as well as pleaders ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I do not think that is a necessary inference, Sir."